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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal; and

a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and compatible with food preparation is in fluid communication with the interior surface of the microwave oven after the enclosure separable seal ~~is deformed~~ separated.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cleaning solution further comprises a fragrance and at least one component selected from the group consisting of water, an emulsifier, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the surfactant has a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50%.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the fragrance is selected from the group consisting of lemon, citrus and pine.

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8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal to enable delivery of the surfactant solution onto the interior surface of the microwave oven; and

a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the surfactant solution comprises water and at least one component selected from the group consisting of ~~water~~, an emulsifier, a fragrance, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the surfactant solution comprises a surfactant at a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50%.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the at least one component is a fragrance selected from the group consisting of lemon, citrus and pine.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven using a cleaning apparatus comprising a cleaning article and an enclosure containing a surfactant solution, comprising:

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heating the cleaning apparatus with microwave energy by operating the microwave oven for a period to evaporate a portion of the surfactant solution while forming a vapor;
emitting the vapor from the enclosure into an interior of the microwave oven;
condensing at least a portion of the vapor onto the interior surface of the microwave oven for a second period to hydrate a residue adhered thereon; and
removing the residue from the interior surface with the cleaning article.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the period and the second period are each about 5 minutes.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the surfactant solution comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of water, an emulsifier, a fragrance, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the surfactant solution comprises a surfactant at a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50%.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising:

placing a cleaning apparatus in the microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article and a surfactant solution at least partially surrounded by an enclosure;

heating the cleaning apparatus for a time period;

evaporating at least a portion of the surfactant solution to form a vapor;

emitting the vapor from the cleaning apparatus;

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condensing the vapor on the interior surface;
hydrating a residue adhered on the interior surface; and
removing the residue from the interior surface with the cleaning article.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the surfactant solution comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of an emulsifier, a fragrance, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein breaking a seal on the enclosure enables vapor delivery into the microwave oven.

25. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising:

placing a cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article, a surfactant solution and an enclosure at least partially enclosing the surfactant solution;

heating the cleaning apparatus to form a vapor from at least a portion of the surfactant solution;

delivering the vapor from the cleaning apparatus to the microwave oven interior surface;

loosening a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface; and

removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the surfactant solution comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of water, an emulsifier, a fragrance, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein breaking a seal on the enclosure enables vapor delivery to the microwave oven interior surface.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process and a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof, and the enclosure is ~~deformable~~ severable to enable fluid communication between the surfactant solution and the interior of the microwave oven.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure is ~~deformable~~ severable to enable fluid communication between the surfactant solution and the interior of the microwave oven; and

a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process.

31. (Previously Presented) A method for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising:

placing a cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article, a cleaning solution and an enclosure at least partially surrounding the cleaning solution;

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heating the cleaning apparatus to form a vapor from at least a portion of the cleaning solution;

delivering the vapor from the cleaning apparatus onto the microwave oven interior surface;

loosening a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface; and

removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising breaking a seal on the enclosure to enable delivery of the vapor onto the microwave oven interior surface.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the cleaning solution comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, an emulsifier, a fragrance, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the cleaning solution comprises a fragrance and at least a second component selected from the group consisting of water, a surfactant, an emulsifier and combinations thereof.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the fragrance is selected from the group consisting of lemon, citrus and pine.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning solution comprising water and a fragrance, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable release of the cleaning solution into a microwave oven interior; and

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a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is disposed at least partially around the cleaning article.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the cleaning article is selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the cleaning solution further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, an emulsifier, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the cleaning solution further comprises a surfactant and an emulsifier.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the fragrance is selected from the group consisting of lemon, citrus and pine.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the at least one component is a surfactant at a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50%.

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around an aqueous cleaning solution comprising a fragrance, wherein the enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal to enable fluid communication between the aqueous cleaning solution and the microwave oven interior surface; and

a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process.

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45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the cleaning article is partially enclosed by the enclosure and selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel, a shammy and combinations thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the fragrance is selected from the group consisting of lemon, citrus and pine.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the aqueous cleaning solution further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, an emulsifier, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the at least one component includes a surfactant at a concentration in a range from about 0.5% to about 50%.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising:

a cleaning article containing a cleaning solution comprising water and a fragrance and at least one component selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, an emulsifier, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof; and

an enclosure at least partially enclosing the cleaning article, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution onto the microwave oven interior surface.

51. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising:

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a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process of the interior surface of the microwave oven;

a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant which is compatible with food preparation and able to effect cleaning of the interior surface of the microwave oven; and

an enclosure disposed at least partially around the cleaning article and the cleaning solution, wherein the enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the enclosure comprises plastic.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein the cleaning solution further comprises a fragrance.

54. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the enclosure ~~is deformable~~ disperses the cleaning solution when heated by the microwave oven.

55. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising:

a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation at least partially enclosed by an enclosure that is breakable to enable dispersion of the surfactant solution onto the interior surface of the microwave oven; and

a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process disposed at least partially within the enclosure and at least partially saturated with the surfactant solution.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the surfactant solution further comprises a fragrance.

57. (Previously Presented) A kit for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising:

a cleaning apparatus comprising:

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an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance into an interior of a microwave oven; and

a set of directions comprising:

placing the cleaning apparatus into the microwave oven;

heating the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven for a first period to evaporate a portion of the cleaning solution to form a vapor;

maintaining the microwave oven closed for a second period without operating the microwave oven to hydrate a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface; and

removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article.

58. (Previously Presented) A kit for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising:

a cleaning apparatus comprising:

an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution; and

a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process; and

a set of directions comprising:

placing the cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven;

heating the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven for a first period to evaporate a portion of the cleaning solution to form a vapor;

maintaining the microwave oven closed for a second period without operating the microwave oven to hydrate a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface; and

removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article.

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59. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising:

a cleaning article selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel and a shammy;

a cleaning solution comprising a solvent and a fragrance, wherein upon being heated, a portion of the cleaning solution forms a cleaning vapor; and

an enclosure at least partially enclosing the cleaning solution and the cleaning article, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning vapor into a microwave oven interior.

60. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the solvent is water.

61. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising:

a heated cleaning liquid and a cleaning vapor formed from a cleaning solution comprising a solvent and a fragrance; and

an enclosure at least partially enclosing the heated cleaning liquid and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable delivery of the cleaning vapor into a microwave oven interior.

62. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the solvent is water.

63. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising:

a microwave-safe enclosure disposed at least partially around a wiping article moistened with an aqueous surfactant solution compatible with food preparation and comprising a fragrance, wherein the microwave-safe enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal to enable fluid communication between the aqueous surfactant solution and the interior surface of the microwave oven.

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64. (Currently Amended) A kit for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising:

a cleaning apparatus comprising:

a microwave-safe enclosure disposed at least partially around a wiping article moistened with a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance, wherein the microwave-safe enclosure ~~is deformable~~ has a separable seal to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution; and

a set of directions comprising instructions to:

place the cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven;

heat the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven to form a vapor from the cleaning solution for a first time period;

cool the cleaning apparatus after operating the microwave oven while keeping the microwave oven closed and loosening a residue adhered on an interior surface of the microwave oven for a second time period; and

remove the residue from the interior surface with the wiping article.

65. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 64, wherein the second time period lasts for about 5 minutes.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the second period lasts for about 5 minutes.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

operating the microwave oven to heat the cleaning apparatus for the time period;
and

allowing about 5 minutes after operating the microwave oven before removing the residue from the interior surface.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

operating the microwave oven to heat the cleaning apparatus for a first time period;
and

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providing a second time period of about 5 minutes after operating the microwave oven and before removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

operating the microwave oven to enable the heating the cleaning apparatus for a first time period; and

providing a second time period of about 5 minutes after operating the microwave oven and before removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface.

70. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 57, wherein the second period lasts for about 5 minutes.

71. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 58, wherein the second period lasts for about 5 minutes.